

## **MsSC 125**

### **George N. Worden Papers**

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

George Newton Worden was born November 13, 1889. Graduating from the College of Agriculture of the University of Maine in 1913, Worden worked for over twenty years as a County Agricultural Agent in both Maine and Washington State. In 1943, Worden was hired as an Assistant County Agent in the Truck Corps by the Agricultural Extension Service at Washington State College, a job that entailed the investigation of farms in King and Pierce Counties that employed labor by selective service registrants. Throughout his career as an Agricultural Agent, Worden researched the usage of fertilizers for agriculture and wrote a number of articles for reports and newsletters on the subject.

On May 1, 1944, Worden took a position as Evacuee Property Officer with the Seattle Office of the War Relocation Authority (WRA), an agency created by the U.S. Department of the Interior to coordinate the evacuation of Japanese-Americans during World War II. In this capacity, Worden managed and inventoried the real estate and commercial holdings of evacuees sent to internment camps. As a result of the disbanding of the WRA after the war, Worden's position as an Property Officer ended in May 1946.

#### **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The papers of George Worden include blank forms, correspondence, inventories, personnel memoranda, publications, reports, speeches, and travel vouchers covering the years 1937 to 1948, concentrating mostly on the years 1943 to 1946.

One-third of the collection consists of correspondence documenting Worden's two career paths in this period, that of Agricultural Agent and Property Officer. Subjects covered in the correspondence include Worden's involvement with agricultural groups in the state, his interest in fertilizer research, Worden's articles on agriculture, the purchase of war bonds, racism directed against Japanese-Americans, appreciation from evacuees whom Worden served, and the temporary nature of the WRA and its mission.

The inventories, newspaper article, personnel memoranda, publications, reports, and speeches in this collection primarily document the Evacuee Property Division of the WRA and its operation. In addition to offering insights into the function and procedural aspects of the agency, these materials also demonstrate WRA's public role in discouraging racism against Japanese-Americans and its concern over the safety of evacuees' return from the internment camps. As a

whole, about two-thirds of this collection pertains to the WRA and Worden's involvement in the agency.

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1937 to 1948

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

**VOLUME:** 6 linear inches

**ACCESSION NO.** 1998.19.1

## **FILE LISTING**

### **BOX 1: Articles, Blank Forms, Correspondence, Inventories, Personnel Memoranda, Publications, Reports, Speeches, Stationery Letterhead, and Travel Reimbursement Vouchers.**

1. Article: "Fertilizers For Vegetable Crops." by George Worden. Appeared in *Cooperative Extension Work In Agriculture and Home Economics* newsletter. January 15, 1943
2. Article: "Old 5-10-10 Is Back; More Tricky Than Ever, Fertilizer Problems Merits Close Study." By George Worden, original copy. 1943
3. Blank Forms: 1942-44
  - Annual Personnel Needs Inventory of the Valley Vegetable Growers Association, Inc. January 1944
  - Application For Federal Employment. U.S. Civil Service Commission 1942.
  - Loan Application. Farm Security Administration, U.S.D.A. 1943.
4. Correspondence: 1937
5. Correspondence: January-March, 1943. (Fertilizer demonstration for a class, Fourth Annual Garden School, Victory Garden Program)
  - January 13, 1943. R.N. Miller to Worden. (Legislative bill allowing Counties to use county-owned equipment for land clearance)
  - April-September, 1943. (Appointment of Worden as Assistant County Agent)
  - April 15, 1943. Worden to New Nutrition Laboratories-Cornell Univ. (Worden's interest in experiments in grading mineral content in foods)
  - April 22, 1943. L.G. Smith to Worden. (Insect control projects for Pierce and King County)
  - April 28, 1943. L.G. Smith to Worden. (Insecticide demonstrations)
  - July 16, 1943. J.C. Knott to Worden.
  - October-December 1943. (Worden's article for Valley Vegetable

- Growers Associations' Annual Report, 1944 production goals for Washington State, use of fuel oils to control weeds)  
 December 28, 1943. Ernest Henry to Worden. (Disadvantages of group farm management)
6. Correspondence: January-March, 1944. (Worden's resignation as Associate County Agent, meeting of a "Filipino grower group" (Valley Vegetable Growers Association), subscription to the Fertilizer Review, employment for the Farm Credit Administration of Spokane, son William's graduation from Univ. of Idaho, Victory Gardeners' Institute)  
 January 19; February 25, 1944. Worden and J.A. Johnston to War Price and Ration Board (Requests for an increase in Worden's gas allowance)  
 March 17, 1944. Charles Phillips to Worden. (Worden's article and request for more information on mineralizing soil)  
 April-December 1944. (War bond statements, Civil Service background check)  
 May 9, 1944. Peggy Osasa to J.A. Oliver (Bank balance, going to Minneapolis to work, hopes that "the Japs over there, who showed such brutality to out flyers, will soon be conquered and subdued.")
7. Correspondence: January-December 1945. (Thank you letters from Evacuees, Garden Institute Program, closure of the relocation centers)  
 March 1945. Intl. Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union to WRA. (Letters condemning racial discrimination in Portland)  
 April 4, 1945. Harold Fistere to Worden. (Closure of the WRA and future employment with the Federal Government)  
 May 6, 1945. Ray Elliot to Florence West. (Hate letter clamoring for the extermination of Japanese and Jews)  
 May 23, 1945. E. Price Steiding to Worden. (Relocation of Otohiko Koura to Bainbridge Island)  
 July 2, 1945. R.B. Cozzens to Dillon Myer. (Applications for lumber and building supplies by returning evacuees)  
 September 18, 1945. B.R. Stauber to Harold Fistere. (Worden's request for a file on Shuji Arima)
8. Correspondence: January-December 1946. (Recommendation of Worden's work with fertilizers to a prospective employer, Worden's interest in working with a private food production firm, official notice from WRA of a reduction in workforce)
9. Correspondence: January-December 1947. (Arranging meeting times with the Dept. of Horticulture head at WSU, T.A. Merrill)  
 August 14, 1947. Fred W. Frasier to Worden. (Epsilon Sigma Psi membership-questionnaire attached)  
 August 30, 1947. R.N. Miller to Worden. (Purchase of a farm locker)

December 2, 1947. L.A. Weber to Loren Dumas (Soil mining and potential loss of Eastern Washington apple market, Rood feeding system)

10. Correspondence: January-December 1948. (Puyallup horticultural meeting)
11. Correspondence: Undated.
12. Inventory: List of property held by Japanese. Undated (page 1 missing)
13. Inventory: Open Agricultural Lands of King County Evacuees. Undated
14. Inventory: Open Commercial Property, Returned King County Evacuees. Undated
15. Misc.
16. Newspaper Articles: Articles on Japanese-Americans in Combat. 1944 (Distributed by the WRA)
17. Personnel Memoranda: War Relocation Authority. 1943-45
  - August 1943-October 1944 (Procedures for creating photographic records and documentation concerning vandalism and theft of evacuee property)
  - June 13, 1944. (Employees' bonds for evacuee Property Supervisors-some paperwork enclosed)
  - November 6, 1944. (Employee purchase of war bonds-Dept. of Interior's quota of 35% of one month's gross pay)
  - General Memoranda: 1945
18. Personnel Memoranda: "Pertinent Facts About Relocation Centers and Americans of Japanese Ancestry." 1945. WRA (Report contains a number of quotes from politicians and organizations on the question of Japanese internment and loyalty as well as statistics on Japanese-American citizenship and economic impact)
19. Personnel Records: Advice of Personnel Action. WRA 1944-46
20. Publication: Congressional Hearing report on the War Relocation Authority. April 30, 1945
21. Publication: Evacuee Property Program Information. Undated. ( A report produced by the War Relocation Authority for use by evacuees in understanding the services of the WRA)
22. Publication: Japanese Farm Holdings on the Pacific Coast. December 1944. U.S. Department of Agriculture.
23. Publications: Misc. Circulars and Bulletins. 1943-47
24. Publications: *Weekly Press Review*. Nos. 64, 65, 70, 72. 1944 (Newsletter of the WRA)
25. Report: 1945 Crop Estimate, Returned King County Evacuees.
26. Report: Potato Acreage Summary Sheet. 1943
27. Report: Validity and Effect of Leases-For the Duration of the War-On Real Property in California, Oregon, and Washington. October 19, 1945. WRA
28. Speech: "Racism and Reason" Director of the WRA Dillon Myer. October 2, 1944. (Address on the need to combat racism in the relocation of internees back into society, speech given at an interfaith meeting sponsored by the Pacific Coast

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play)

29. Speech: "When will the Japanese-American Evacuees return to the West Coast?"

Assistant Director of the WRA Robert B. Cozzens. June 26, 1944.

30. Stationary Letterhead: Japanese Association of Bainbridge Island. Undated

31. Travel Voucher Reimbursements. 1945-46